

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended)** A process for ex situ oxidizing passivation of a sulfurized hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst, comprising a first step of contacting said sulphurized catalyst with at least one oxidizing gaseous stream, and a second step of before or after said step contacting the catalyst with at least one organic liquid with an initial boiling point of more than 120°C which at least partially fills the pores of the catalyst.

**Claim 2 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 3 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 4 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 1, wherein contact with said gas stream is carried out in two stages, the first in a partial pressure of oxygen of less than 8 kPa, the second in a partial pressure of oxygen that is higher than that of the first stage and at most 21.3 kPa.

**Claim 5 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 4, wherein the second stage of the first step is carried out in air.

**Claim 6 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 1, wherein contact with said gas stream is carried out in one or more stages with one or more gas streams all having a partial pressure of oxygen of more than 8 kPa.

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**Claim 7 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 6 wherein the stream or streams is/are air.

**Claim 8 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is treated while in motion.

**Claim 9 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst is in a moving bed.

**Claim 10 (Original)** A process according to claim 9, carried out in a rotary oven, a fluidized bed oven, a band oven, a gravity bed reactor oven or a rising bed device.

**Claim 11 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 1, wherein said organic liquid used in the second step comprises kerosene, gas oil, a vacuum distillate, a lube oil, a wax or a paraffin with an initial boiling point of more than 180°C.

**Claim 12 (Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 1, wherein said organic ~~compound contains~~ liquid comprises a compound containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen.

**Claim 13 (Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 12, wherein said organic ~~compound~~ liquid comprises an alcohol, an aldehyde, a ketone, an ester, an amine, an amide, a mercaptan, a sulphide or a sulphone.

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**Claim 14 (Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 13, wherein the organic ~~compound~~ liquid is an ester.

**Claim 15 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 14, wherein said ester comprises animal or vegetable oils or partially unsaturated fatty acid triglycerides.

**Claim 16 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises Co and Mo.

**Claim 17 (Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 4, wherein the organic ~~compound~~ is liquid comprises an ester.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic ~~compound~~ is liquid comprises an ester.

**Claim 19 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 18, wherein the catalyst comprises Co and Mo.

**Claim 20 (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 19, wherein said ester comprises animal or vegetable oils or partially unsaturated fatty acid triglycerides.